BOROUGH OF MARGATE.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1903.

Margate:

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1904.

BOROUGH OF MARGATE.

COUNCILLOR HERMITAGE, MAYOR.

Sanitary and Sewerage Committee:

ALDERMAN WOOTTON, CHAIRMAN.

" SIMMONS

COUNCILLOR CARTER

" DOUGHTY

" HUGHES

" PALMER-PALMER

" SAVIN.

Medical Officer of Health:

B. THORNTON.

Inspector of Nuisances:

EDWARD ELLIOT.

Town Clerk:

EDWARD BROOKE.

To the Town Council of the Borough of Margate.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Sixteenth Annual Report, containing the vital statistics of Margate for the year 1903.

Births. The number of births registered in the Borough was 487, as against 540 in the previous year, being 242 of males, and 245 of females. This represents a natural increase of 164, and a birth rate calculated on the estimated population of 20·2 per thousand, being below the average (21·4) of the previous ten years, as shown in the following table:—

YEAR	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	Av. of 10 yrs.	1903
BIRTH-RATE	22·3	20·9	21·3	20·1	20·6	23·7	21·7	21·3	19·0	22·9	21·4	20·2

Deaths. The number of deaths registered in the Borough in 1903, was 325, being 48 less than in 1902. The death rate is calculated by comparing the deaths of residents with the residential population. The gross total of 325 therefore is corrected (1) By the subtraction of 45 deaths among visitors and 41 which occurred among other non-residents brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, who died in public institutions here, and (2) By the addition of the 37 deaths which took place among Margate people outside the district, *viz*:—33 in the Workhouse at Minster, 2 in the Haine Isolation Hospital, and 2 in Chartham Asylum. This gives a corrected total of 276 deaths as against 331 in the previous year.

Death-rate. The death-rate is about the lowest we have ever had in Margate, being 11·4 per thousand, which is 2·5 less than the average of the previous ten years, as the following table shows :—

Year.	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	Av. of 10 yrs.	1903
Death-Rate.	14·7	13·8	15·0	12·5	14·2	13·7	15·0	14·4	12·1	14·0	13·9	11·4

Zymotic Diseases. The number of deaths during the year from the seven principal zymotic diseases was 14, as against 37 in the previous year, and were as follows :—8 from diarrhœa, 3 from whooping cough, 2 from enteric fever, and 1 from measles. To these have to be added 2 which occurred in the Isle of Thanet Joint Isolation Hospital at Haine, one being from enteric fever and one from scarlet fever.

Zymotic Death-rate. The Zymotic Death-rate is also lower than we have had in recent years and was only 0·5 per thousand. The low general death-rate, combined with the low zymotic rate, shows 1903 to have been one of the healthiest years we have ever had in Margate.

Table showing the Zymotic Death-rates for the past 10 years.

Year	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	Av. of 10 yrs.	1903
Zymotic Rate	1·6	1·3	2·0	0·7	0·9	1·1	1·1	1·5	0·7	1·8	1·3	0·5

Notification Act. The number of cases notified under this Act was 173, as against 334 in the previous year. Part of this difference is accounted for by the fact that chicken-pox was notifiable during 8 months of 1902, but only during 4 months in 1903, but notwithstanding this the number of notifications was considerably below the average. They were distributed as follows :—116 of scarlet fever, 18 of enteric fever, 17 of varicella (chicken-pox), 11 of erysipelas, 9 of

diphtheria and 1 each of small-pox and puerperal fever. The case of small-pox was imported and every precaution having been taken to isolate it and prevent the spread of infection from it, no other case occurred. With regard to the 18 cases of enteric fever, I am of opinion that most of the cases of this disease which occur in Margate, are either due to importation or to the consumption of contaminated shell-fish, and I would repeat what I said in my last Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health, that it is urgently necessary in the interests of the public, that Parliament should protect them by enactment from the dangers arising to health from the consumption of oysters and other shell-fish derived from sewage polluted sources.

Isolation Hospital.

During 1903 there were 92 cases, as against 109 in 1902, admitted from Margate into the Haine Isolation Hospital, situated outside the Borough. Seventy-two of these were scarlet fever, 13 enteric fever, and 7 were diphtheria. Only two deaths occurred among them, one being from enteric fever and the other from scarlet fever. This Hospital is a great improvement on the old Northwood Hospital and should be adequate to meet the needs of the district for a long time to come.

Infantile Mortality.

During 1903, the number of deaths of children under the age of one year was 53, as against 86 in 1902, this represents an infantile mortality of only 108 to every 1000 registered births and is a very low rate indeed.

Water Supply.

The most important sanitary improvement of the year was the completion of the new Waterworks, situated in the neighbourhood of Wingham. The turning on of the water from this new source took place on August 6th, and there can be no doubt that the abundant supply of pure water which is obtained from these works will be of inestimable value to Margate. With an excellent main drainage system, and a water supply abundant in quantity and of most excellent quality, Margate must be considered as well equipped, in these two primary essentials, to stand in the very front rank of the Seaside Health Resorts of the Kingdom.

Nearly every Sanitary Improvement which it has been my duty to recommend during a period covering nearly sixteen years, has now been carried out, the acquirement of a Dust Destructor, and the establishment

of an Abattoir, being the two most notable exceptions, and when the time comes that these two improvements can be effected, I feel sure beneficial results will accrue to the Borough.

Drainage System.

This has again worked in a very satisfactory manner, 57 old houses were connected to the public sewers, and a considerable number of new houses were erected, all of which, of course, were connected with the public sewers and the drainage plans deposited with the Borough Surveyor.

The Inspector of Nuisances (Mr. Elliot) furnishes me with the following list of Sanitary Work carried out by himself, the Assistant Sanitary Inspector (Mr. Brown) and others during the year :—

Two thousand six hundred and fifty-eight premises visited or re-visited, notices being served where sanitary defects were found.

Fifty-eight Cesspools abolished.
Twenty-seven Privies abolished.
Fifteen Soil Pipes reconstructed.
Twenty-two Ventilation Pipes reconstructed.
Thirty-eight Sink Wastes reconstructed.
Twenty-one cases of Defective Water Supply in houses remedied.
Forty-four defective W.C.'s remedied.
Nineteen new Flushing Cisterns fixed and 8 repaired.
Three Bell-traps removed.
Four Manure Pits reconstructed.
Fifteen Houses or portions of houses cleansed.
Two cases of overcrowding remedied.
Two hundred and ten Gullies, Drains, etc., cleansed.
A considerable number of patients removed by the Ambulance.
One hundred and ninety-six rooms disinfected.

Two thousand and seventy-eight articles disinfected by the Steam Disinfector.

Under the Food and Drugs Act 100 samples were taken, consisting of :—Butter, lard, cheese, sugar, coffee, cocoa, bread, flour, mustard, milk, condensed milk, tinned salmon and lobster, etc.

One milk dealer was convicted of adding 25 per cent. of water to his milk and was fined £10 and costs.

Fifty pears, 14 tins of lobster and a quantity of fish were destroyed.

Six chemical and 6 bacteriological samples of water from the public supply were examined with satisfactory results.

Factory and Workshops Act.

All the Workshops in the Borough have been kept under supervision and 13 have been cleansed and whitewashed, and 2 cases of overcrowding in them have been abated. In connection with the duties imposed by Sec. 101 of the Act, the underground bakehouses have been visited by the Sanitary Committee on several occasions. Various alterations as to construction, lighting, ventilation and other matters having been effected, in 15 cases certificates of suitability, making it lawful for them to be used after January 1st, 1904, have been given.

The resignation of the post of Medical Officer of Health for Margate, which I tendered on October 13th last, having now taken effect, and the writing of this Report being my last official act, I beg to wish every prosperity to the Borough, and to express the hope that the efforts of the Town Council, and of others, for the further improvement of the town may be crowned with complete success.

Yours faithfully,

A. W. SCATLIFF, D.P.H., &c.

January 23rd, 1904.

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